

NLR Mayor's Youth Council 2004-2005 Year-end Report

Organized in 1999 by Mayor Patrick Henry Hays.

Mission: *Under the tenants of America's Promise, our goal is to mentor, nurture, protect, teach, serve.* We will serve the youth of our city – grades 9-12 – by providing a network of adult leaders and mentors, by providing them with community service activities during after-school hours and on weekends, by providing opportunities for growth through educational programs, by helping them to discover the many career opportunities available through working with non-profits and city agencies, by helping with applications to colleges and providing documentation of service hours for universities and prospective employers, and by providing scholarships for deserving seniors.

Number of members in '04/'05 – 75

Hours served – as of May 15, 2005 – more than 10,000 hours served

- 46 Council Members served more than 100 hours each, qualifying them for the Presidential Service Award
- Of these 46 members, one served 964 hours, one served 560 hours, two served over 400 hours, two served over 300, and eight served over 200 hours.
- The 10,000 hours served by the entire council translated to a dollar value at minimum wage amounts to \$51,500. Using the amount of \$17.55 per hour recommended by the Independent Sector, (obviously they don't work in Arkansas!) it comes to \$175,500. (This information comes from the Division of Volunteerism's yearly bulletin, *Economic Impact of Arkansas Volunteers.*)

Scholarships - \$10,200

- Presented by the NLR School District
Maggie Searcy - \$1500 – U. of Missouri at Colombia
Natalie Stagg - \$1500 – U of A at Fayetteville
Krista Messer - \$1500 – Hendrix College
- Presented by Pulaski Technical College
Ashley Smith - \$1200 – Pulaski Technical
- Presidential Freedom Scholarship - \$500
Match from Dan and Cheri Rolett - \$750 each
Justin Bickell - \$1250 - UCA
Kent Skiles - \$1250 – UCA

- Presidential Freedom Scholarships – \$500
Match from Celebration of Teaching - \$500 each
Bridgitte George - \$1000 (deferred – graduates '06)
Krystal Billups - \$1000 (deferred – graduates '06)

Projects and Events –

Some of our *favorite* non-profits are: Arkansas Rice Depot, Food For Kids Program, Carelink, Hearts and Hooves Equine Therapy Program, Meals on Wheels, Our Club at Sherman Park, Adopt a Pet (City of NLR), Salvation Army, NLR Fire Dept., Mayor's Clean Up Day, Boo at the Zoo, NCCJ, Our House, CARTI, Race for the Cure, Families are Special, Museum of Discovery, Lakewood Manor Nursing Home, American Red Cross, NLR Public Schools, American Heart Association.

Some of this year's most successful projects and events were:

- **Sherman Park Our Club** – We had seasonal parties for kids (Valentine's Day, Easter Egg hunt/party, Christmas, Halloween). We visited Our Club once a month to mentor kids. Members made hundreds of snack packs that the kids could eat after school or take home in the evening. The packs included crackers, a protein item, a fruit and small dessert.
We worked in partnership with the First United Methodist Church members of the Butterfly Ministry.
We worked at the Our Club Mardi Gras Fundraiser for Pulaski County Our Clubs.
Our Clubs was selected as our non-profit of the year this year and was honored at our year-end banquet.
- **School Supply Drive** – Member Buster Geary's "Start Something" project lead members to collect over \$3000 worth of school supplies. They were distributed to the NLR School District and to after-school programs.
- **Home Town Heroes** – the NLRMYC was named Home Town Heroes by the Modern Woodmen of America and was presented with a \$100 check and a certificate of appreciation in a ceremony at the City Council Meeting in January.
- **Firemen's Funfest** – Members worked the food line, painted faces, manned booths, and handed out literature. This is one of the council's favorite events.
- **Teen Mental Health Committee** – Members collaborated with the NLR School District, NLR Health Department, Arkansas Children's Hospital, and UAMS to give input on the writing of a half million-dollar grant to fight teen depression.
- **Books for Our Buddies** – Members collected over 2000 books to create after school libraries/reading programs for area non-

profits working with youth. Libraries were set up at Silver City Our Club and at the North Heights Community Center.

- **Welcome Home Shower** – Three members' (Maggie Searcy, Natalie Stagg, Sarah Slattery) "Start Something" project was organized to rally members to replace items that destroyed an Our Club member's home on Valentine's Day. Council members replaced living room and bedroom furniture, items for the kitchen - including a microwave- bedding, clothing for the family, toys and groceries. So many clothes were donated that all the Sherman Park Our Club families were able to participate.
- **Job Shadowing** – We cooperated with city officials and non-profits who hosted kids on Groundhog Day and allowed them to shadow them in their workplace.
- **Read Across America at Silver City Our Club** - Members sponsored a four-day program that featured different "*Cats in the Hat*" – a police officer, fireman, and council members read to the kids. Natalie Stagg's "Start Something" Project included the books for the library, shelving, a "reading rug," and cube seats. At the end of the week they received free Dr. Seuss books and a Read Across America certificate.
- **Personal Hygiene Day at Silver City Our Club** - Natalie Stagg's work with Silver City also included a day in which a speaker came and talked to the kids about personal hygiene. Council members made personal grooming kits for all the kids at Silver City.
- **Arkansas Rice Depot** – For the Depot we labeled cans of food (at least a million!), put rice krispies in bags for school breakfast programs, made rice mixes for them to sell in their Christmas bazaars, and delivered food boxes to the elderly. The MYC program was selected as the "Volunteer of the Year" for 2005.
- **Food For Kids Program** – In September the MYC kids donated new backpacks for their program that allows low income kids to take food home each night in a backpack. Members collected change and donated \$500 to the program.
- **Our House** – Members donated school supplies, toys and clothing to the homeless children at Our House in September.
- **Sister City Program** – Several members hosted teens from our Sister City Uiwang, Korea. They traveled with them daily as they toured our city. The Council decorated for both the welcome and farewell banquets and provided food service support.
- **Teddy Bear Patrol** – Kelsey Riley's "Start Something" project collected hundreds of Teddy bears and stuffed animals from the council members. These were donated to the NLR Police Department so that patrolmen can carry them in their cars to give to children when they answer calls where children are in

the home. A citizen observed an officer giving a bear to a child and was moved to donate stuffed animals on his own.

- **Alzheimers Walk** – We supported this association by folding their brochures and by painting faces at their annual walk at the zoo.
- **Arkansans for Drug Free Youth** – We handed out stickers and posters at schools on “Kick Butts Day.”
- **NLR Easter Egg Hunt** – We painted faces, took pictures for the Morgan Nick Alert, and assisted with games.
- **Unitown** – Through the generosity of the NLR School District, many MYC members were able to attend this NCCJ two-day event.
- **Salvation Army** – We rang bells at Christmas and made over 200 stuffed stockings for the Angel Tree families. We manned the Angel Tree at the mall and worked at the distribution centers at McCain and Park Plaza.
- **CareLink** – We stuffed their fundraiser invitations and worked their Hot Wheels for Hot Meals Fundraiser in May.
- **Relay for Life** – Members had a team who helped kick off the Relay for Life Cancer Walk at the West Campus track in May. One thousand dollars was donated in their honor for their service to the community.
- **Families are Special Adoption Agency** – We worked their fundraiser bazaar, collected hundred of dollars worth of items to be sold at the bazaar, sold donuts, and staffed their state adoption conference. We did “Tie One On,” tying a blue ribbon on the agency’s fence for each of the 1094 children in foster care in Pulaski County. Proceeds from the fundraising benefit adoption programs and adoption awareness.
- **Hope’s Miracle** – Katya Lyzhina’s “Start Something” project raised over \$4000 for the U.S. Waiting Child Fund through a public speaking and letter writing campaign. Its aim is to raise awareness of the need to adopt older children from the foster system. Her project caused her to be selected as the Arkansas Youth Humanitarian of the Year by Channel 4 and the Arkansas Department of Human Services.
- **Hearts and Hooves** – We did a five-hour clean up at the stables and fields before their annual Hoe Down Fundraiser. We worked the fundraiser, serving food, manning games for children, and doing take-down.
- **Boo at the Zoo** – Because we are all children, this is the best-attended event (by council members) that we work. The members staffed the games and handed out candy to trick or treaters for the ten-day event.

- **Race for the Cure** – For a week, members staffed their prep office, folding and giving out t-shirts, registering runners, folding brochures, and manning stations on race day.
- **American Red Cross** – We organized and staffed two blood drives. One at the NLR City Services Building and one at the parking lot of the Community Center. We collected 42 units of blood. Our hero, Mayor Hays, is always a donor!
- **City of NLR** - We worked *lots* of NLR events – Ark. Symphony, Easter Egg Hunt, Mayor’s City Clean Up, Firemen’s Funfest, Adopt a Pet, volunteered at the U.S.S. Razorback, attended the City Beautiful Kick Off meeting, attended a Sister City dinner with Turkish citizens.
- **American Heart Association** – We folded 5,000 brochures that were put at Subway Restaurants all over Arkansas to advertise and sign up runners for the Heart Walk/Run. We assisted with the event by decorating, and handing out water and coupons to runners. Several members served as Association Sweethearts and spoke out on ways to prevent heart disease.
- **Arkansas Anytown** – The City paid the way for six members to Ferncliff to Arkansas Anytown, a one-week residential youth leadership institute that “helps identify and address prejudices and takes a step toward a world of acceptance, understanding and peace.” This program is sponsored by the NCCJ. We also participated in their Walk as One in the River Market. The walk was made by people of all races and religions from the River Market to NLR and back across the bridges. Member Chassidy Walker shared the stage with the L.R. Mayor as the main speakers.
- **Year-end Banquet** – The city hosted an appreciation-awards banquet for the members and their families at the Hays Center in May. The Mayor spoke and it was attended by some of the City Council Members. Katya Lyzhina received the award for Project of the Year. Natalie Staggs received the award for Volunteer of the Year.
- **NLR City Website** – We continue to be linked into NLR’s beautiful website where we have a Council Web page with our calendar and pictures of monthly events. Visit us at <http://www.northlittlerock.ar.gov/programs-resources/MYC/default.asp>.